

Economic officer chosen

THE Cassowary Coast Regional Council has chosen an economic development officer.

Former Port of Townsville business development general manager Shanel Basnayake will take on the new role on June 7.

CCRC chief executive officer Terry Brennan said Mr Basnayake will help the council with a key area of its corporate plan.

"The council needs a dedicated resource to capitalise

on opportunities," Mr Brennan said. "This will be a key facilitating role."

While saying it was premature to nominate a range of areas of interest, Mr Brennan said Mundoo Aerodrome was likely to be among the mix after having also been identified in the council's corporate plan. Mr Basnayake has previously lived in the Cassowary Coast region, Mr Brennan said, and was looking forward to coming back.

Mr Basnayake has also

served as chairman of the North Queensland section of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Australia.

His appointment follows work by Advance Cairns regional development officer Margaret Darveniza on an economic development model for the region, in her role assisting councils through the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils.

"It has been important to

have this kind of background before appointing an economic development officer," Mr Brennan said.

Councillors last week voted 5-2 to make a \$30,000 cash contribution to Advance Cairns, along with \$10,000 in-kind support during the 2101-11 financial year, to keep the regional economic development officer role going. The council also asked Advance Cairns to consider a more appropriate name to reflect the wider region.



Shanel Basnayake

Festive air

TULLY'S Golden Gumboot Festival starts today at 9am with the Tully Lite and Car Show in aid of Just 4 Kids Charity.

The Tully Showgrounds will then open at 1.30pm, with entertainment from local band No Gravity getting things underway, followed by a host of acts.

A highlight of the festival will be the Grand Parade featuring the 18 girls participating in the Golden Gumboot Quest at 3pm.